



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
2021 Intersessional Meetings
Informal Presentation of Requests for Extensions to be considered
by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties

23 June 2021

Statement by MAG regarding Mauritania's Article 5 extension request
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Thank you, Madam Chair.

MAG welcomes the submission of a detailed Article 5 extension request by Mauritania. Although Mauritania had previously declared completion, the reporting of newly discovered contamination represents good practice under the Convention and we welcome this transparency.

It is encouraging that Mauritania was able to define the extent of contamination in the relatively short timeframe since the discovery of the new mined areas, though Mauritania acknowledges the need for further survey to better define this baseline. An elaboration of the methodology used to define the current baseline of contamination would strengthen the extension request, including whether the baseline was evidence-based and conducted through inclusive consultations with local communities, in line with the indicators for Action 18 in the Oslo Action Plan.

We encourage states in the Sahel region to report improvised landmines resulting from recent or ongoing conflict under Article 5 of the Convention. Mauritania's request does not include information on the impact of any recent conflict in the region and clarification on this point would be welcome.

Mauritania rightfully identifies the need for development of a sustainable national capacity during the extension request period in order to deal with any residual risk, in line with Action 26 of the Oslo Action Plan. We encourage Mauritania and other States Parties with clearance obligations to clearly define capacity development needs early on and to develop tailored capacity development plans. Building sustainable national capacities should include both national authorities and national mine action organisations and aim to improve the ability of stakeholders to implement the Article 5 extension requests, and also to ensure adequate capacity to deal with any residual contamination or mines discovered following completion.

Considering that other countries in the region are facing similar challenges to achieve compliance with the Convention – such as limited national capacity – we encourage more regional dialogue and exchange of lessons learned among states with Article 5 obligations, particularly those with new obligations arising as a result of recent conflict, including those in the Lake Chad region and members of the Sahel G5. The way forward is through cooperation and partnership and MAG stands ready to support and facilitate this.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

ENDS